

1. (original): A thickening composition comprising
  - (a) 10-50 % by weight, based on the total composition (a) + (b), of a crosslinked hydrophilic water soluble or swellable liquid dispersion polymer and
  - (b) 50-90 % by weight, based on the total composition (a) + (b), of a crosslinked polymer or copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid in powder form.
2. (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein component (a) is an anionic polymer.
3. (original): A composition according to claim 2 wherein the anionic polymer is the polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid.
4. (original): A composition according to claim 3 wherein the anionic polymer is poly(acrylic acid) or poly(methacrylic acid).
5. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~ containing the polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid wherein 55-90 % of the carboxylic acid groups are in the form of an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt.
6. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein component (b) is made by precipitation polymerization.
7. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein component (b) is a crosslinked poly(acrylic acid) or a crosslinked poly(methacrylic acid).
8. (currently amended): A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 containing additionally (c) a hydrophobic liquid.
9. (original): A composition according to claim 8 containing mineral oil or paraffin oil as component (c).
10. (original): A composition according to claim 8 containing 40 to 80 % by weight of component (c), based on the total composition (a) + (b) + (c).
11. (original): A printing paste ~~prepared by using~~ comprising a thickening composition according to claim 1.

12. (original): A printing paste according to claim 11 containing at least one dye.
13. (currently amended): A printing paste according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~ containing at least one reserving agent.
14. (currently amended): A printing paste according to claim 11, ~~12 or 13~~ containing at least one agent to protect the print against the action of chlorine.
15. (currently amended): A process for the multicolour jet-printing of textile materials, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the material is printed with an aqueous printing paste containing dyes and a thickening composition according to claim 1.
16. (currently amended): A process according to claim 15, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the pH of the aqueous printing paste is  $\leq 5$ .
17. (new): A printing paste according to claim 12 containing at least one reserving agent.
18. (new): A printing paste according to claim 12 containing at least one agent to protect the print against the action of chlorine.
19. (new): A printing paste according to claim 13 containing at least one agent to protect the print against the action of chlorine.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are fully in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121.

Respectfully submitted,



Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation  
540 White Plains Road  
Tarrytown, New York 10591  
(914) 785-7127  
KTM22777SPA

Kevin T. Mansfield  
Agent for Applicants  
Reg. No. 31,635

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